Justice Dept. Urges Delay in Integration

From Our Wire Services

WASHINGTON, July 1.—The Justice Department's top civil rights officer, in a private memo, urged a month ago that two North Carolina school districts be given until September 1971 to achieve total desegregation.

This month-old recommendation by assistant attorney general Jerris Leonard contrasts with Leonard's repeated public statements that September, 1970, will be the final deadline for all southern school desegregation.

In Jackson, Miss., this week, for example, Leonard emphasized after meeting with recalcitrant school officials that "we consider this September to be the final deadline and every district must be in compliance."

MEMO DIFFERS

But behind the scenes, at least in the case of the two North Carolina districts, Leonard has been talking differently.

In a June 1 memo to J. Stanley Pottinger, the civil rights chief of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Leonard urged that Chatham and Bladen Counties in North Carolina be given until 1971 to finish the desegregation process.

Leonard's recommendations to Pottinger came a few days after a Justice-HEW team visited Raleigh, N.C., to confer with officials of local school districts still failing to meet federal desegregation standards.

CAPACITY PROBLEMS

Because both Bladen and Chatham had "capacity and construction problems," Leonard suggested that Pottinger should permit those districts to defer final desegregation until 1971.

Leonard Garment, special consultant to the President, made the White House answer in a lengthy telegram to Bishop Stephen G. Spottswood, chairman of the NAACP's board of directors.

In a speech to the convention Monday night, Spottswood characterized the Nixon Administration as the first since that of Woodrow Wilson which could be labeled anti-Negro.

'EQUALITY FOR ALL'

Garment said the Administration should be credited with numerous steps to better the state of black Americans. He listed:

— The Philadelphia Plan, opening up the construction trades to Negroes on a major scale.

— The Family Assistance Plan with a minimum income guarantee and improvements in existing food and welfare programs.

—The proposed $1.5 billion to aid the process of school desegregation.

—Naming "more blacks to policy-making posts than any previous administration."

Anti-Negro Charge Is Called Unfair

WASHINGTON.—The White House says attacks against the Nixon Administration at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People convention in Cincinnati as being antiNegro are unfair nad disheartening.

PHILA. INQUIRER - 7/2/70